141. Inequalities of treatment of the Catholics of Travancore.

MR. K. C. CHACKO (*Trading classes, Changanacherry*) said that the Roman Catholic community could hold its own against any other community in Travancore. In recent years, the community had made great strides in education and wealth. But the extent of its representation in public service was inadequate. Government did not make any determined attempt to improve the position of the community in that matter.

The Roman Catholics participated in, and even led, the movement which resulted in the opening of the Revenue Department to all communities. But, so far as the Catholics were concerned, the change was only theoretical. None of the Dewan Peishkars, Division Assistants, Tahsildars, Surveyors, Head Clerks, Sheristadars and Revenue Supervisors were Catholics. Of the 400 *Proverthicars*, only one was a Catholic. The Catholics formed the bulk of the land-owning and agricultural population of the country. But the authority to register *puduval* lands, dispose of *poranboke* cases, collect taxes and prepare voters' lists was vested in officers who belonged to other communities.

As regards the Huzur Office, the position of the Catholic community was exactly the same. There was not even a single Superintendent or Secretary who belonged to that community.

What was true of the Revenue Department and the Huzur Office was true also of the Judicial, Public Works, Police, Excise and other Departments. In the clash of communities, the interests of the community which did not have adequate representation in the public service were bound to suffer.

It was indeed a serious anomaly that a community, like the Roman Catholic community, should be perpetually kept out of its place in the public life of the country and be forced to eat out of the hands of minority communities. If Government would do anything to eliminate or even minimise the evil, they would earn the gratitude of the community.

The officers who had the power to make appointments persuaded their subordinates to go on leave for a while in order that they might appoint their own men in the vacancies. The claims thus created were advanced as an argument against the appointment of new men, even though they belonged to unrepresented communities. The practice tended to perpetuate the evil of over-representation of particular communities in the services.

The officers who, in making appointments, overlooked the claims of unrepresented communities did not deserve to live on public funds. Government should obtain and examine caste-war lists of appointments made by the several heads of departments and offices every year. The officers who made appointments in contravention of the claims of unrepresented communities should be called to account.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Chacko, നിങ്ങളുടെ നിവേദനത്തിൻ മറുപടി ഒടുവിൽ പറയാം.

[A reply to the representation will be given later on.]

142. Concessions to Catholic Christians of south Travancore.

Mr. F. DAVY (*Nominated*) said that the Latin Catholics outnumbered any other section of Christians in Travancore. But they were inadequately represented in public service. To secure an improvement in the condition of the Latin Catholics, the member made the following suggestions :—

Government should issue orders to the various heads of departments for preference being shown to applicants of the Latin Christian community.

The Headmasters of English and Vernacular schools and the Principals of Colleges should be asked to grant fee concessions to pupils and students who belonged to the Latin Christian community.

In the selection of students for training in foreign countries, preference should be shown to qualified young men of the community.

Special encouragement should be given, whenever possible, to members of the community already service.

The Chief Engineer should be asked to arrange for the construction of roads and the sinking ni wells wherever members of the community wanted them.

The Land Revenue Commissioner and the Director of Industries should be asked to grant loans to applicants of the Latin Christian community, to enable them to start and carry on agricultural and industrial enterprises.

Instructions should be issued for the registry, in the names of poor members of the community, of lands for building houses.

The Latin Christian community was not in a position to obtain representation, by election, in representative institutions and local bodies. Government should nominate members of the community to those institutions and local bodies. In the interests of minority communities, Government had the power to make nominations.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Davy, as regards your request for fee concession, I shall refer the matter to the Director of Public Instruction.

As regards stipends to students going to foreign countries for study, I outlined the policy of the Government in the matter in answer to a representation made by another member.

You say that roads must be constructed and wells sunk wherever members of your community want them. It is not possible to make at one and the same time all the roads and wells that the people might want. They are therefore being made according to the urgent needs of each locality.